



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
August 26, 2008

### **RIO GRANDE FLOOD CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS AND WATER QUALITY ON AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 8 PUBLIC MEETING**

Efforts to improve the Rio Grande Flood Control Project in the Paso del Norte region will be discussed at an upcoming public meeting. The Rio Grande Citizens' Forum of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 8 at USIBWC Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa Street, Building C, El Paso, Texas.

USIBWC Civil Engineer Raymundo Aguirre will discuss work underway in El Paso County, Texas and Doña Ana County, New Mexico to improve the Rio Grande Flood Control Project. USIBWC crews are currently working to raise and reinforce the Rio Grande flood control levee in the Mesilla Valley in New Mexico. In El Paso County, a joint project with the Mexican Section of the Commission has begun to remove sediment from the Rio Grande channel. Additional work is planned to raise levee height for portions of El Paso's Upper Valley later this year. The projects are being undertaken to comply with FEMA criteria for levee systems.

The water quality monitoring activities of the Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) for the Rio Grande will also be discussed. USIBWC Environmental Protection Specialist Elizabeth Verdecchia will distribute copies of the 2008 Basin Summary Report that discusses water quality trends in the Rio Grande Basin over the last five years and will discuss future studies and projects. In 2009, the CRP will be offering a grant for small projects related to water quality or environmental education for the Rio Grande in Texas. Ms. Verdecchia will review details of the grant application.

The Forum will also hear from Chris Brown, Chair of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council. The Council works to promote projects to improve water quality and quantity, ecosystem integrity, the quality of life, and economic sustainability in the Paso del Norte watershed. The Council has worked recently on a coordinated GIS database project to provide via the Internet a range of water resource and GIS data for the area served by the Rio Grande Project. The Council has also worked on watershed planning to address nonpoint source pollution.

In other business, Zhuping Sheng of the Texas AgriLife Research Center in El Paso will discuss the latest work to model Rio Grande flow. He will present information about the Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model, including the current status of the RiverWare model for simulation of the Rio Grande flow for the Rio Grande Project, which supplies water to users in southern New Mexico, the El Paso area, and adjacent lands in Mexico.

The Rio Grande Citizens' Forum was established by the USIBWC in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of information regarding USIBWC activities on the Rio Grande between Percha Dam, New Mexico and Fort Quitman, Texas. It is designed to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, irrigation districts, municipalities, and others interested in the river.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries and settling differences that arise in their application.

For more information:

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**RIO GRANDE CITIZENS' FORUM**  
**Monday, September 8, 2008**  
**6:30 - 8:30 P.M.**  
**USIBWC Headquarters**  
**4171 N. Mesa St., The Commons, Building C**  
**El Paso, TX 79902**

**AGENDA**

- Welcome & Introductions – Al Riera, USIBWC, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Paso del Norte Watershed Council Update – Chris Brown, NMSU, Chair, Paso del Norte Watershed Council
- Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model: Current Status of RiverWare Model for Simulation of the Rio Grande Flow for the Rio Grande Project – Zhuping Sheng, Texas A & M University
- Rio Grande Flood Control Improvement Projects – Raymundo Aguirre, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- Texas Clean Rivers Program for the Rio Grande, Water Quality Monitoring – Elizabeth Verdecchia, Environmental Protection Specialist, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion, Suggested Future Agenda Items

Note: The next meeting will be Thursday, December 4 in Las Cruces, NM.

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information, call 915-832-4175 or e-mail [sallyspener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.gov)